

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Divisional Application of:
COCKRILL, et al.

Group Art Unit of 2765
parent application:

Examiner of **Kanof, P.**
parent
application:

Express mail number: **ET 523593141 US**

For: **ELECTRONIC COMMERCE USING A TRANSACTION NETWORK**

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Please amend the application as indicated:

In the Specification:

Please insert the following prior to the Technical Field of the Invention:

-- **Cross-Reference to Related Application**

This application is a divisional application of Serial Number 09/201,311, filed November 29, 1998, and incorporated herein by reference. --

In the Claims:

Please delete claims 1-50.

Please add the following claims in the application:

51. (New Claim) A method in a computer system for identifying a user using a user computer system among a group of users, the method using a potentially non-unique member identifier, the method comprising:

(a) registering the user by:

(1) obtaining for the user a member identifier that is potentially not unique; and

(2) after obtaining the solicited member identifier, storing a unique identifier for the user on the user computer system in conjunction with the obtained member identifier; and

(b) identifying the user by:

(1) soliciting from the user the member identifier of the user;

(2) receiving the member identifier of the user;

(3) reading from the user computer system the unique identifier stored in conjunction with the member identifier received; and

(4) identifying the user using the unique identifier.

52. (New Claim) The method of claim 51 wherein a plurality of users having the same user computer system are registered by repeating (a)(1)-(a)(2) for each of the plurality of users.

53. (New Claim) The method of claim 51 wherein obtaining for the user a member identifier that is potentially not unique comprises:

soliciting from the user a member identifier of the user; and

receiving from the user a member identifier of the user.

54. (New Claim) The method of claim 51 wherein the method is practiced on behalf of a first online service, and obtaining for the user a member identifier that is potentially not unique comprises obtaining for the user a member identifier used by

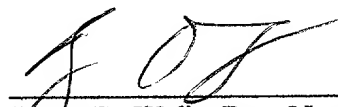
the user to identify himself or herself to a second online service distinct from the first online service.

55. (New Claim) The method of claim 54 wherein obtaining for the user a member identifier used by the user to identify himself or herself to the second online service obtains the member identifier from an operator of the second online service.

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request entry of the above amendments prior to prosecution of the present application. After the amendments, claims 51-55 are pending in the application.

Respectfully submitted,



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